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Issue #48
March 21 to
April 3, 1989

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly
Ecomedia
BULLETIN

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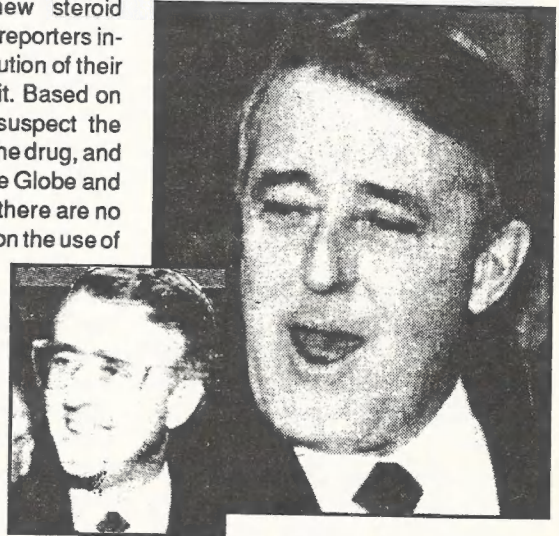
BRIAN'S STEROID NIGHTMARE

OTTAWA - Rumours abound on Parliament Hill that Brian Mulroney is a secret steroid user. Although the Prime Minister has denied the allegations, an inside source claims he used steroids extensively during the last election campaign. "The pressure on politicians to tell more lies than their opponents is so great up here that it takes a really strong person to withstand it. Brian was just finding it too hard. His natural talent for misinformation isn't as great as, say, Ed Broadbent. So he turned to steroids. I mean what choice does he have? It's nuke or be nuked in the world of politics." There have been unconfirmed reports that his steroid use goes back even further, perhaps even to the beginning of his political career. Visible symptoms are the enlarged size of his chin, reportedly an effect of strenghtening of jaw muscles, both to handle the incredible outpouring of lies and to keep a straight face while telling them.

Here in Toronto, the public is in an uproar over rumours that Toronto Sun reporters have turned to steroids to keep up with the pace of reporting on the Dubin enquiry. Reporters from all three major papers have been under extreme pressure to come up with hundreds of inane articles on Ben Johnson to boost newspaper sales. Desperate Sun reporters have chosen steroids to out-do their competitors.

Side effects of this new steroid developed especially for reporters include an over-all de-evolution of their writing style into pure shit. Based on this observation many suspect the entire Sun staff is taking the drug, and its use is heavy in both the Globe and the Star too. At this point there are no international regulations on the use of steroids in journalistic circles so the situation is not likely to change in the near future.

Right: Brian in recent days, compared to Brian in 1982 (inset). Steroids have more than doubled the size of his chin.



The Truth About Ben

by Peter Mortinston

The mainstream media just can't seem to get enough of him. Ben Johnson and his coach have been front page news repeatedly over the last few weeks. Reporters are wetting their pants with delight as they uncover more and more drug use or gory details to fill their gossip rags, however none of them care to look at why athletes are so driven by competition that steroids are needed

at all. What is it about sports and scandals that holds such fascination for us?

Sports isn't about games, it's about money. For TV, advertisers, and all sorts of media, sport is a godsend. It's also about making some people larger than life, making idols, and making spectators of the rest of us. The players are apparently not like us. They're different, better. We never get the

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Greek Anarchists Face Crackdown

The Greek government and right-wing press are using the upcoming trials of Greek anarchists to divert attention from their real problems and curry favour with their western allies, according to a prison letter from one of

the accused. The trial of Clearhos Smyrnuos and Christophoros Marinos, two of the four Greek anarchists arrested in October '87, is coming up in April, and in recent weeks a smear campaign by a

rightwing rag claimed that they are part of an international terrorist connection which includes imprisoned Palestinian fighter Mohamed Hamdan (wanted by the USA for alleged aircraft bombing) and people from the ruling socialist party. Clearhos' letter denounces these accusations, and the trial will be a major focus of anarchists in the coming weeks.

The attack against the movement does not stop here. Recently anarchists have been arrested for "illegal" poster and "insulting authority." An anarchist recently release on charges of bombing a bank is now being retried on the same charges. Vagelio Vogiatzi, whose triumphant acquittal last November was reported in a previous Ecomedia, is being accused of pushing drugs during a visit to West Germany even though she's never travelled outside of Greece. Katerina Latropoulou, a radical lawyer and anti-prison advocate, is facing charges of harbouring prison escapees in her house and possession of heroin (cops who raided the house brought a bag along and claimed to have found it there.)

This crackdown is taking place against the backdrop of a country rocked by a wave of general strikes and gross economic scandals. . At the end of April there will be a fundraiser for the Greek anarchists, including the showing of a hot video drect from Greece, with lots of action. An appeal for desperately needed funds has been issued from Greece; people wish to donate please send a world money order made out to: Grigorgos Vlassopoulos c/o Anarchist Coil PO Box 30658 Athens 10033 Greece.

(From our Greek Correspondent)

And don't come back ...

Saturday, March 11 Campaign Life along with Operation Rescue, another anti-choice group based in the States (known in pro-choice circles as Operation Fiasco) attempted once again to blockade the Moregentaler clinic. The action came two days after Joe (Shmoe) Borowski's case on fetal rights was dismissed in the Supreme court. Although they punched and scratched patients entering the clinic the blockade was unsuccessful thanks to the efforts of around 200 pro-choice supporters who were there from 5 am onwards to defend the clinic.

In San Francisco, Operation Fiasco also attempted a clinic blockade March 11 although no patients were scheduled to come in that day (smooth move guys). The interesting aspect of

this weekend's action was the blockade of the church where Operation Fiasco was scheduled to worship and have a pre-action rally on Friday March 10 by 400 radical wimmin and supporters. Much like the way they prevent wimmin from entering clinics, members of Operation Fiasco were prevented from entering this church. The police, defending Operation Fiasco members, were pushed back by the pro-choice forces until the demo was ended by the cops macing everyone in the crowd... we know where their sympathies lie! Perhaps we can learn from the Friday action in San Francisco and next time take the initiative to them, give them a taste of their own medicine. *(from an SF correspondent)*

New Home for Darrell Kent



Real Estate developer Darrell "Mr. Cabbagetown" Kent, the 47 year old entrepreneur, has kicked it. Kent, who is responsible for the "highly successful" Darrell Kent Real

Estate agency, made his wealth on the gentrification of Cabbagetown,

formerly a working class, immigrant-dominated area, now the yuppie heaven chock full of stripped pine and exhorbitant housing costs. The agency has also involved itself in neighbourhood associations aiming to destroy the sex trade in "their" area (see last issue). The *Midtown Voice*, true to its funding, carried a huge obit for him along with, as usual, lots of Darrell Kent ads.

DIRECT ACTION REPORTS

Roy Orbison's ghost seen on crane!

Dead Man Croons to demonstrators

Berkeley, CA - The University of California, Berkeley has proved without a doubt that it is not the centre of higher learning that it pretends to be but in fact a military installation. All this has been brought to light by a courageous demonstration by 7 activists who occupied a 165ft crane on a construction site of the University. The crane is on the site the University's construction of the "Northwest Animal Facility", being built to house and centralize all animal experimentation going on at the University. This facility will also house the major research going on at UC developing militarily-funded biological warfare. The lab will relocate the Naval Biosciences Lab which has been described as "the major Navy biological warfare research centre" by former congressman Richard McCarthy.

The occupation began Feb. 21 as 6 people occupied the crane unfurling banners from the crane arm.

Calling themselves the Coalition Against Militarism, Animal Abuse and Environmental Hazard (aka "the crane 7") the activists demanded the end to construction of the lab, an end to biological warfare research and animal experimentation on campus, and no arrests, fines or student disciplinary action.

The occupation lasted 8 days costing the University \$208,000 for the delay in construction and the extra security. During the occupation rallies were held against the construction as well as blockades of the site to prevent

trucks getting in and a constant vigil was kept up.

Initially the University issued a restraining order against the occupiers making it a felony to continue the occupation. The restraining order was declared invalid when lawyers for the activists took it to court. The University also tried to initiate a civil suit against them for \$208,000, this too was thrown out of court. The University refused to negotiate on any of the demands.

The occupation ended on Feb 28 as the last of the activists came down off the crane. They were all charged with trespassing. It seemed as though the incident had come off with minor misdemeanor charges until...

March 8, a well-known Bay area activist was arrested and beaten by 15 cops while crossing the campus. He was charged with vandalism (in connection with the demos that took place on the ground during the occupation) and with resisting arrest(?). He was released on \$1500 bail and treated for injuries received during his arrest.

ALF Actions

On the night of Jan. 6, the Animal Liberation Front liberated 4 dogs from the Veterans Administration Medical Centre in Tucson Arizona. The dogs were rescued from their kennels and were destined for vivisection. This was the first ALF raid to take place in Tucson.

In Long Island New York an Animal Liberation Front activist was arrested last month after police watched her paint "Fur is Murder" and ALF on the

sidewalk in front of the Village Fur Shop, and then throw a brick through their window. Patricia Halleran was charged with mischief and resisting arrest. Her partner escaped in a waiting car.

Earth First!

Earth First! has claimed responsibility for a cattle-auction fire in Dixon. Earth First!, a radical environmental group, is mostly known for their defense of forests and wilderness areas through direct action. A man who identified himself as a member of EF! phoned the Associated Press claiming responsibility for the arson attack on the Dixon Livestock Auction Co. building, as well as spraypaint attacks on the California Cattlemen's association, California Wool Growers Association, and the Agricultural Council of California in Sacramento.

EF! is strongly opposed to livestock feeding on public lands. They believe the land should be used by wildlife.

As an aside, Earth First! is holding their "Round River Rendezvous" from June 18 to 26 this year. Each year the EF! tribe celebrate their bonds with each other and the Earth with music, campfires and open workshops on every aspect of ecological resistance. This year will include one on "Ecofeminism, Deep Ecology, and Anarchy: Towards an Alliance for Action". Civil disobedience actions will follow. You are invited to join the rendezvous in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. For more info write: RRR '89, 2405 Meadow SW, ALB, NM 87105 USA.

The Truth About Ben

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chance to discover what is almost certainly the truth: that many of the people involved in professional sport are ignorant, big-headed, glib, greedy idiots. Just like the rest of us, in fact. That's all kept hidden. Entertainers who can pull in huge audiences and demand even more huge amounts of money have to be kept as myths in order for them to remain as role models, in order for them to be "above" us. The myth continues: that sport is a way out of the factory, a quick trip down the tunnel between dreams and the big Dome stadium appearance. Professional sport is presented to us as better than the sport we play ourselves.

Competition is a wonderful thing; it encourages improvement, change, movement. As individuals and as a human race, we have to move forward. The best way to figure something out is not to do it by yourself but to debate with someone else. Get aggressive. Demand change. Strive to get better.

But in the wrong hands, competition is the source of all our problems. And as things stand, the wrong hands seem to have control of almost every aspect of our lives, including our sports. In these hands competition encourages the formula:

winner = powerful

loser = powerless

and there's the problem — Social Darwinism in a nutshell. You can chuck in a referee and a television audience and you still got the law of the jungle.

And now there's too much at stake to lose. Too much money, too much power, too much prestige. Winner takes all. Loser struggles to feed her/

himself, worries about the future, worries about whether the sponsor will still want to donate training fees and brand-name sportswear, worries... about not winning.

As competition intensifies — as the stakes increase — people begin to look to ways of competing at levels which they physically can't cope with. Top-class sport is being taken over by the artificial heights of drug-assisted performances. It's becoming a race between different types of drugs. A race to avoid detection. A race to discover the newest, most effective muscle-building, speed-increasing, nerve-sharpening injection. Anything to win.

In an age when professional sport is another product in the market-place, there is little question of its position in political and social life. Consume! Spectate! Conform!: These are the messages which professional sport spews out. Of course there are exceptions. At its bottom rung, spectator-sport can be exhilarating and inspiring... something we can share, rather than look up to.

Even more positive is our own involvement in sport. Whether playing soccer in the park or mountain biking in the conservation area, whether in teams or alone, whether highly-competitive or just for pleasure, our own experiences in sport will transcend the business-orientated television sport we've grown up with. And that, in its own way, is political — because it kicks boardroom control and media meddling right out of the arena. One-nothing!

(Much of this article has been shamelessly plagiarized from the pamphlet "Politics in Sport", which is available from Reality Now P.O. Box 6326 Stn A Toronto Ont. M5W 1P7 for \$1.50.)

Calendar of Events

Thurs. March 23, 7:30pm. Meeting to discuss creating anarchist library and bookstore. 519 Church st. Community Centre. A continuation of the discussion begun at the last Town hall.

Sat March 25, 3-6pm: Anarchist anti-racism discussion. Anarchists are by definition anti-racist. Since racism is one of the cornerstone oppressions of our society anarchists attack both its institutional and personal forms. But how are white anarchists racist within our own community, within the subtle forms of personal relationships, and how do we as a community practice anti-racism? Join an open anarchist community discussion about racism and anti-racism, March 25th. 3pm to 6pm at 519 Church st. Community Centre, in the east room.

Tues March 28 6:45pm: Video showing of anti-IMF actions in Berlin last September. A special premiere for North America. 40 Oak st., call 536-2514 for more info.

Thurs. March 30: There is a bi-weekly one-hour womens vigil outside the Israeli Consulate 180 Bloor St. W. to protest the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.. For more information call Jews for a Just Peace 537-8304. All Women welcome.

Tues. April 4th Trial for Innu people. There will be a vigil. Contact ACT for Disarmament for information 960-2228.

Wed. April 5th Anarchist Town Hall meeting. 519 Church st. Community Centre. 7.30pm

NOTE: We've been having difficulties with the machine at the Anarchist Hotline (536-2514), it only seems to play its message on alternate calls. Try again if you don't get a message the first time.

Believe it or Else

You can now reach Ecomedia by FAX. We welcome submissions, press releases and other up-to date news. Stories must be 300 words or less and will be edited for space considerations. No article is guaranteed publishing. Send submissions to Ecomedia care of the Blackbird Design Collective, FAX# (416) 324-8268. (or to the address on the front)